THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The organized sector accounts for only about 15% of the total seeds requirements of the country. The balance requirements is met by the unorganized sector and the seeds saved by the farmers. It is estimated that the share of multinational companies in the organized seeds business in India is less than 10%.

(c)The combined share of M/s Monsanto India Ltd. and Pro Agro in the organized seed business in India is estimated to be about 2.5%.

(d) ICAR has developed many high yielding varieties of seeds in a large number of crops. Even in cross-pollinated crops like maize, ICAR has developed synthetic and composites, which can be produced and used by farmers as seeds.

Closed and sick fertilizer factories

1124. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the fertilizers factories in public sector in the country are either closed or sick or running in loss;

(b) whether there is sufficient demand of the fertilizer;

(c) if so, why such factories are either closed or sick; and

(d) whether Government are taking action for improving the condition of such factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH): (a) Except National Fertilizers Ltd., Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. and Projects & Development (India) Ltd., other Public Sector Undertakings are either closed [Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd., Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. excepting its Jodhpur Mining Organisation which is to be hived off into a new company and Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd.] or are currently running in loss [Fertilizers and ChemicalsTravancore Ltd., Madras Fertilizers Ltd. and Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd.].

(b) and (c)Yes, Sir. However, there has not been any adverse impact on the overall availability of fertilizers in the country. India has now achieved near self-sufficiency in production capacity of urea and total sufficiency in other phosphatic and potassic fertilizers.

(d) The Government has been extending plan and non-plan budgetary support and reliefs in the form of financial restructuring to enable the loss making fertilizer PSUs to continue their operations.

Sale of drugs at higher rates

†1125. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has identified some companies which are selling drugs coming under Price Control at higher rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the drugs which are being sold at higher rates by these companies and since when; and

(d) the amount of money collected by these companies during this period from the common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH): (a) to (d) For a Scheduled formulation, a manufacturer is required to follow the price fixed/notified by the Government in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, '95). For any violation of the price fixed, action is taken under the provisions of the DPCO, '95. Notices by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under Para 13 of DPCO, '95 for charging price higher than price fixed/ notified have been issued to those involved in such violation, including some big companies like M/s Ranbaxy Labs., M/s Cipla Ltd., M/s Nicholas Piramal, M/s Sun Pharma, M/s Torrent Pharma, M/s Aventis Pharma, M/s Smithkline Beecham, M/s Johnson & Johnson Ltd., Dr. Reddy Labs, etc. This is a continuous exercise. An amount of Rs. 3292.48 lakhs has been recovered from all companies upto 30.11.2003.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.